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Journalists renew lawsuit over Nicaragua explosion

Two journalists injured by a bomb that exploded during a Nicaraguan press conference sued a group of contra sympathizers, drug smugglers, Cuban exiles and CIA officials Friday, accusing them of planting the bomb.

The suit, an amended version of a lengthy suit filed in federal court in Miami last May, says that husband-and-wife journalists Tony Avirgan and Martha Honey suffered personal injury in the May 30, 1984, bombing at La Penca, Nicaragua.

The bomb exploded during a press conference given by Eden Pastora, a former leader of contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government. It killed eight people and wounded scores of others.

The suit filed Friday says that 29 people, ranging from Costa Rican

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rancher John Hull to Colombian cocaine king Jorge Ochoa, aided in the smuggling of drugs and the arming of contra supporters with drug profits.

The bombing, the suit says, was a direct result of the group's activities. The group hoped Nicaragua's Sandinista government would be blamed for the press conference bombing, it adds.

After Avirgan and Honey filed their first suit, U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King asked that a second, more legally concise version be filed, according to David Snyder, the journalists' Miami attorney.